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Aug 30th 2018

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am a consumer and small business owner who supports broadband competition and OPPOSES the USTelecom petition that will eliminate the right of independent carriers to serve customers on copper lines, and to use fiber to connect our networks around the state.

There is already too little competitive choice in internet access and telecom service, and if the petition is approved, independent carriers across the country will lose access to critical network elements, and consumers could lose their choice of providers and result in consumer costs.

I choose a local competitive provider rather than a large corporate provider in order to:

- support my local economy
- deal with responsive, personal customer service with local knowledgeable representatives rather than dealing with mega corporations often worthless and frustrating CS outsourced to other countries
- receive competitive rates with less restrictive contracts

Please REJECT this USTelecom petition and protect local competitive internet providers.

Paul Langlois